



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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October 21, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul B. Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

SUBJECT: Site Inspection, UMETCO, Calliham Mine, M/037/023, San Juan County, Utah

Date of Inspection: October 7, 2003

Time of Inspection: 4:50 to 5:30 p.m.

Conditions: Partly cloudy, 60's

Participants: Paul Baker, DOGM

Purpose of Inspection:

Vegetation cover data from a previous inspection indicated there was not enough cover to release this site. I wanted to either confirm or refute this conclusion.

Observations:

I took measurements from 40 quadrats spaced about equally on a zigzag line through the reclaimed area. I tried very hard not to bias where the line was to go, and it included portions of nearly every part of the disturbed area. Twenty quadrats were sampled in an adjacent undisturbed area. The line through the undisturbed area was nearly straight, but I did not exclude any area.

The mean cover value for the reclaimed area was 28.8 percent, and it was 28.7 percent for the undisturbed area. In August, the values I obtained were 28.4 percent for the reclaimed area and 42.0 percent for the undisturbed area. Combining these figures gives values of 28.6 percent for the reclaimed area (mean of 66 quadrats) and 33.1 percent for the undisturbed area (30 quadrats total).

There are some relatively bare areas within the reclaimed area, but in general, the vegetation has progressed well. Most of the vegetation cover was from grasses, but there were

Page 2 of 2

M/037/023

Inspection Date: October 7, 2003; Report Date: October 17, 2003

areas with substantial cover from fourwing saltbush. There were very few weeds and no noxious weeds that I have found.

I did not take pictures during this inspection, but there were some signs of erosion since the last inspection. There have been some heavy rains in the area, one of which was estimated to have dropped about two inches in a day. The erosion control matting the operator installed has held up well (see photo attachment with the report for the August 8, 2003, inspection).

Conclusions and Recommendations:

Based on the combined data from the two inspections, the revegetation success standard would be 70 percent of 33.1 percent which is 23.2 percent. The value obtained was 28.6 percent, so the site meets the revegetation success standard. Assuming it meets other release requirements, which I believe it does, the Division can release the operator from further reclamation liability, including the bond.

PBB:jb

cc: Rahe Junge , UMETCO

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